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State Dept. review completed

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GENERAL

1. British and Italian Foreign Offices analyze Pravda article:

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The British Foreign Office assesses the Pravda article on Eisenhower's speech as being primarily designed to continue propaganda warfare, while at the same time "lowering the international temperature." It believes that the Soviet Union has kept the door open, but is in no hurry for genuine negotiations on substantive matters. The Foreign Office sees no indication whatsoever that Moscow wishes talks on Germany, but considers its attitude on Austria less clear.

The Italian Foreign Ministry also feels that the USSR does not desire an over-all negotiated settlement but may be willing to pay some price for a relaxation of international tension and a slackening of the Western defense build-up. In the Foreign Ministry's opinion, the effects of each concession, such as the exchange of Korean prisoners of war, will be carefully appraised by the Kremlin to estimate how much more must be given to achieve its purpose.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Cambodian uprising against French reportedly hinges on King's decision:

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There is immediate danger that Cambodian loyal and dissident forces will join in armed revolt against the French if the King orders it, according to General de Langlade, the local French commander. De Langlade states that the King's recent public criticism of the French has made him a national hero, and that his supporters have been asked to rise if the King's

demands for greater autonomy are not met before 7 May. De Langlade believes that the immediate return of the King, who is now in Tokyo, plus the granting of some concessions is imperative.

Meanwhile, the King has informed French Ambassador Dejean in Tokyo that he does not want to return to his country "empty-handed" and may remain indefinitely in Tokyo. Dejean and Japanese sources, however, believe that the King is not fostering open rebellion.

Comment: The King is apparently seizing on France's present difficulties in Laos to press his demands. He bitterly resents the failure of the French to make concessions in appreciation of his past cooperation.

While it is probably true that the King is not yet actively fostering rebellion, mounting Cambodian resentment may get beyond his control.

4. Laotian leaders do not fear "Free Laos" Government:

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The vast majority of the Laotian people are indifferent to the implications of the Viet Minh invasion

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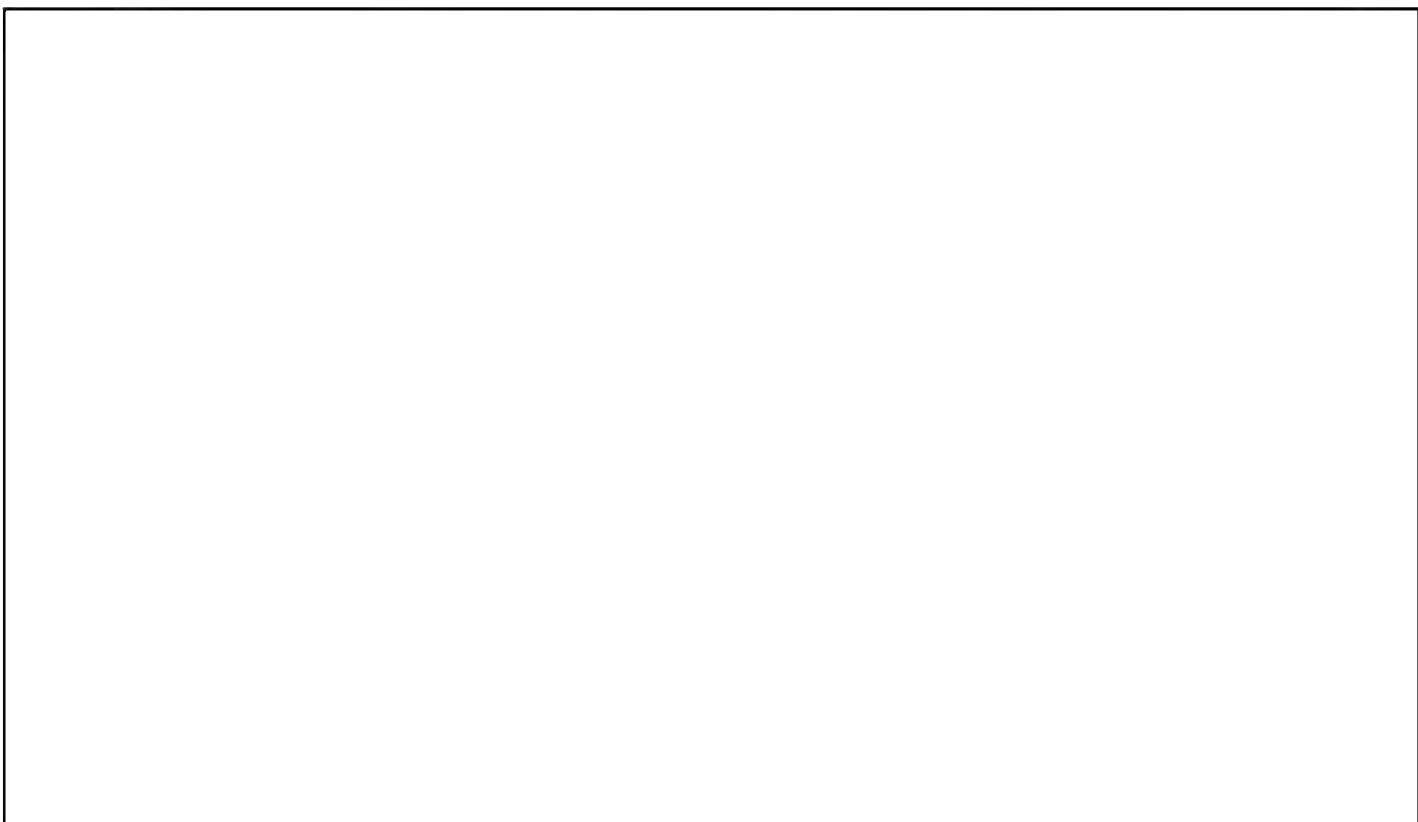
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[redacted] Their leaders believe they can make peace with a "Free Laos" puppet government under Viet Minh control.

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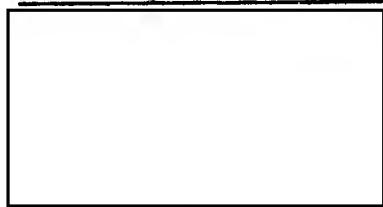
Comment: Most of the leaders of the present French-sponsored Laotian Government were at one time members of an anti-French rebel government, and could probably adjust to such a role again. The recent frustration by the French of Laotian efforts to bring their case to the United Nations is likely to encourage accommodation to the Viet Minh, particularly if the French defense of the country proves ineffectual.

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6. Britain protests Egyptian attacks on army vehicles in the Suez zone:

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British Ambassador Stevenson in Cairo has complained to General Nagib about the "almost daily" attacks by Egyptian civilians on British

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military vehicles in the Suez Canal zone. A British noncommissioned officer was reportedly killed and another wounded as the Anglo-Egyptian talks were opening on 27 April.

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Nagib denied that Egyptian authorities have any connection with these incidents. Foreign Minister Fawzi indicated to Ambassador Caffery that opponents of the Nagib regime are probably responsible.

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Comment: These incidents may jeopardize the success of the Anglo-Egyptian defense talks, which, according to both British and Egyptian officials, opened in a friendly atmosphere.

Censorship has suppressed reports of more than 50 attacks involving the theft of British vehicles and small arms which have occurred since January, 20 of which took place in April.

7. Israeli terrorists may be trying to precipitate war with Arabs:

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American Consul General Tyler reports that an Israeli investigation of the fighting in Jerusalem on 22 April indicates that an Israeli terrorist gang may be endeavoring to precipitate war between the two countries. Tyler comments that this gang may have been responsible for hitherto unexplained murders blamed on Arabs.

Comment: Young Israeli terrorists are the successors to the underground organizations which helped create the country. These elements have been pressing for expansion of Israel and may have been encouraged to carry on their activities by the government's readiness to blame the Arabs for recent border incidents.

Tyler considers the present situation "the most grimly serious threat to peace since the armistice was signed" in 1949.

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WESTERN EUROPE

8. Italian Political Adviser foresees all Trieste under Italian jurisdiction:

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[Redacted]

The Italian Political Adviser in Trieste considers that sentiment there has increased greatly of late in favor of actual formation of a Free Territory of Trieste as provided by the Italian Peace Treaty of 1947. Such a move, he told American and British officials in Trieste, would get the Yugoslavs out of Zone B, and in view of the "trend of international events" would result in the return to Italy in the "not distant future" of the entire territory.

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Comment: The Italian Political Adviser's suggestion is completely unrealistic since the Yugoslavs now hold Zone B and have shown no intention of withdrawing.

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10. French fear Austrian views on treaty may undercut West:

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The French Foreign Ministry has informed the American Embassy in Paris that it still considers it inadvisable to call a four-power meeting on the Austrian treaty without first notifying Moscow of the West's willingness to withdraw the abbreviated treaty draft.

The Foreign Ministry furthermore fears that should Western insistence on revision of the long treaty draft delay its conclusion, the Austrians might place the West in a difficult position by advising the Russians that they are prepared to accept the long draft without revision.

The French consider that ultimately the West will probably have to accept Article 35 of the long treaty which provides for considerable economic advantages to the USSR.

Comment: While it seems unlikely that the Austrians would deliberately attempt to embarrass the West in an effort to obtain a treaty, Western differences over possible terms for a settlement are probably already well known to the Russians and would be exploited by them if they were prepared to terminate the Austrian occupation.

Although the Austrian Government is ready to accept the long treaty, it has publicly maintained that the question of its acceptability is a question for the Austrian Parliament to decide.

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